

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGUI 00461 121410Z

43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 FEA-02

INT-08 FTC-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 JUSE-00 AID-20

IGA-02 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 DRC-01

/148 W

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O R 121300Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4745

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, EIND, CT

SUBJ: GOCAR NATIONALIZATION

REF BANGUI 0459

1. EVENING MAY 11 RADIO CENTRAFRIC ANNOUNCED SEVERAL GOCAR DECREES NATIONALIZING FOREIGN OWNED ENTERPRISES. THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY WAS ALMOST COMPLETELY NATIONALIZED INCLUDING TEXACO, SHELL, TOTAL WEST AFRICA, PURFINA, MOBIL, AND SEPP. THE DECREE DID NOT INCLUDE AGIP, WHICH WAS ALREADY 50 PERCENT GOVERNMENT OWNED. ALSO NATIONALIZED WERE ASECNA AND IMPRIMERIE CENTRALE D'AFRIQUE.

2. A SOCIETE ACSNA (ASSOCIATION CENTRAFRICAINE SECURITY NAVIGATION ARIEN) WAS CREATED TO REPLACE ASECNA. PROSPECT OF IMMINENT NATIONALIZATION OF THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY WAS REPORTED

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REFTEL. THE NATIONALIZATION OF ASECNA AND IMPRIMERIE CENTRALE CAME

AS A COMPLETE SURPRISE.

3. AT GALA EVENING FOR BASKETBALLERS ON MAY 11 BOKASSA AND OTHER
SPEAKERS, INCLUDING EVEN TEAM MEMBERS, STRESSED "REVOLUTIONARY" ATMOS-

HERE AND NECESSITY OF FREEING CAR FROM ALL VESTIGES OF COLONIALISM.
BOKASSA BERATED FRENCH FOR ENDEAVORING TO MAINTAIN CONTROL
OVER CAR IN FRONT OF FRENCH AMBASSADOR WHO SAT MOTIONLESS
THROUGHOUT.

COMMENTS: THE NATIONALIZATION OF THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY IS A
CULIMINATION OF A SERIES OF EVENTS COMMENCING WITH THE CONGO'S
OIL NATIONALIZATION OF JAN. 1974 AND WAS PRECIPITATED BY GOCAR'S
REFUSAL TO PAY MONIES OWED TO THE COMPANIES AND THE COMPANIES'
REFUSAL TO PAY ALL OF RETROACTIVE TAXES IMPOSED BY GOCAR. WE KNOW
GOCAR OWED IMPRIMERIE CENTRAL CONSIDERABLE SUM AND PROBABLY
ASECNA AS WELL. ASECNA NATIONALIZATION COUPLED WITH THE
PRESENT LIMITED AVIATION FUEL SUPPLY COULD POSE SERIOUS PROBLEMS
FOR THE CAR IN TERMS OF INTERNATIONAL AIR SERVICE.

DALE

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